

A Walking Tour of the Park

Spring Branch In 1781 this stream was free-flowing. It was the loyalists' primary source of water during the siege.

1 Island Ford Road You are parallel to a colonial road that came through Ninety Six. Decades of travel cut the road to its present depth. The road crossed the Saluda River at Island Ford, seven miles north.

2 Patriot Forces Arrive On May 21, 1781, the Continental Army under General Greene came along Island Ford Road, soon launching the siege.

3 British Fortification Colonel Cruger bolstered Ninety Six's defenses by adding stockades, digging ditches around buildings, and building the star fort. Slaves did much of the work.

4 Siege Trenches Colonel Kosciuszko conducted siege operations by the manual: three **parallels** were connected by zigzag **approach trenches** (saps) that could not be enfiladed by enemy fire. From the third parallel sappers dug a **mine**—a six-foot-vertical shaft. From its bottom they tunneled toward the star fort and planned to blast open the wall so troops could charge inside. The siege ended before the mine was finished. This was the only use of a mine in the American Revolution. Patriots built a 30-foot log **rifle tower** about 30 yards from the fort, so they could fire directly down onto the loyalists. This 10-foot tower is a reconstruction.

5 The Attack Patriots began firing at noon on June 18. Fifty patriots rushed into the fort's ditch to open the way for the army. Loyalists assaulted them on both sides, killing 30. Greene halted the final attack.

6 Star Fort These earthen mounds are the actual remains of the star fort. At the time of the siege the walls rose 14 feet above the bottom of the ditch. During the siege loyalists added the protective **traverse** and dug a 25-foot **well**. They found no water, and slaves continued to sneak water to them at night through the **communication trench (covered way)**, four-to five-foot deep ditches that connected the star fort, village, and stockade fort.

7 Town of Ninety Six Three roads intersected here. Loyalist troops here maintained British links with the Cherokee and tried to suppress the increasingly vocal patriots. A two-story brick **jail**—the first in the area—was built here in 1772. The jailer lived on the first floor, prisoners on the second. Another **communication trench** led to the stockade fort.

8 Stockade Fort Loyalists built a stockade around the home of James Holmes to guard the town's water supply. On June 18 Colonel Lee captured the fort but held it only until Greene ended the attack. This stockade fort is a reconstruction.



1 Tour stop

Walking tour trail (paved)

Other trail (unpaved)

Patriot siege trenches

Loyalist Star Fort

Site of historic structure
Some historic structures are marked on the ground with colored posts.